

the within application, September 12, 1998, is prior to the March 8, 1999 filing date of the application which issued as the MARTIN patent.

Accordingly, the MARTIN patent cannot be considered a valid reference for rejection of claims in the instant application.

In Applicant's original response to the January 3, 2002 Office Action, Applicant submitted a certified English translation of the priority document.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all claims remaining in the application are clearly allowable and this application is now in condition for allowance.

Dated: New York, New York  
January 6, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

AUSLANDER & THOMAS

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. Arthur Auslander".

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